

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-11 (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a card-shaped information carrier, comprising the steps of: placing at least one card template which is to be sized into a hollow mold; subjecting the template to a simultaneous action of pressure and heat for a predetermined time so that the template placed into the hollow mold is heated over at least one large area by heating plates; and enclosing a peripheral, narrow, outer boundary region of the inserted template with a peripheral frame consisting of a material which is one of substantially non-heat-conducting, reflects heat and concentrates heat back onto an inserted laminate, the frame having internal dimensions that correspond to final dimensions of the card-shaped carrier, so that quantities of heat flowing off per se there are retained, blocked in, reflected and concentrated back onto the template.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein the placing step includes placing a laminate template including a plurality of sized card layers into the hollow mold.

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for producing a sized, card-shaped information carrier comprising a frame defining a cavity in which card layers are placeable for lamination by pressure and heat, a peripheral region of the frame consisting of a material which is one of substantially non-heat-conducting, reflects heat and concentrates heat back onto an inserted laminate, the frame having internal dimensions that correspond to final dimensions of the card-shaped carrier, and further comprising heating plates arranged on both sides of the frame forming, by its internal dimensions, the cavity for the laminating process, the heating plates including an upper heating plate and a lower heating plate, the frame having a reduction in

material in a transitional edge region in order to increase specific contact pressure between frame border edge and the upper heating plate, one of the heating plates having external dimensions that correspond to the internal dimensions of the frame and being insertable with a prestressing action into said frame so as to produce the pressure required for laminating.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as defined in claim [[16]] 14, wherein the lower heating plate has the external dimensions that correspond to the internal dimensions of the frame, and further comprising a cooling body adjacent to the lower heating plate so that the cooling body is insertable together with the lower heating plate into the frame.

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 17, and further comprising prestressing means for prestressingly acting on the cooling body adjacent to the lower heating plate.

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 17, wherein the upper heating plate is arranged to close the cavity formed by the frame in a lid-like manner by way of a boundary lip projecting over the frame dimensions.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 19, and further comprising pressure-producing means for pressing the frame and the upper heating plate firmly against one another so that between the upper heating plate, which closes the cavity in a lid-like manner, and the frame an intrinsic relative movement is possible.

Claim 21 (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 14, wherein the reduction in material is formed by a peripheral, outer annular recess in the frame.

23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 19, and further comprising dedicated prestressing means for pressing a transitional boundary edge of the frame against the boundary lip of the upper heating plate.

24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 23, wherein the frame prestressing means are supported on the cooling body which is assigned to the lower heating plate and subjects the lower heating plate to pressure.